

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OC-06

CCO-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /082 W
----- 114492

R 060343Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3211

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2192

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: KOREAN CIA AND US WIRE SERVICES

1. AP AND UPI BUREAU CHIEFS (BOTH KOREAN) INFORMED EMBOFF FRIDAY, APRIL 5, THAT THEIR LOCALLY AFFILIATED WIRE SERVICES (HAPDONG AND ORIENT PRESS RESPECTIVELY) HAD DECLINED TRANSMIT THEIR SEOUL DATELINED COPY TO TOKYO ON ORDERS OF ROK CIA. ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH HAPDONG TRANSMITS AP AND ORIENT PRESS TRANSMITS UPI SEOUL DATELINED COPY TO TOKYO IS OF MANY YEARS STANDING. IT ALSO AN OPEN ARRANGEMENT WIDELY KNOWN IN PRESS CIRCLES AND IN GOVT.

2. BUREAU CHIEFS STATE THAT HAPDONG AND ORIENT PRESS INFORMED THEM ROK CIA CLAIMED IT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT UNTIL ROK CIA OFFICIALS NOTED SEOUL DATELINED STORIES ON APRIL 3 STUDENT DISORDERS IN STARS AND STRIPES. ROK CIA THEN INVESTIGATED, LEARNED OF ARRANGEMENT AND ORDERED BOTH KOREAN NEWS SERVICES TO DISCONTINUE PRACTICE. AP AND UPI REPS POINT OUT THIS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SINCE ROK CIA MONITORS ALL
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WIRE SERVICES, INCLUDING HAPDONG AND ORIENT PRESS

EXTERNAL NEWSCAST TO TOKYO. IT IS THIS EXTERNAL
NEWSCAST OF BOTH AGENCIES ON WHICH AP AND UPI
HITCHHIKE INTO TOKYO WHERE COPY IS FORWARDED BY AP
AND UPI TOKYO BUREAUS TO U.S.

3. BOTH AP AND UPI MUST NOW FILE BY TELEX OR
KOREAN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WHICH IS
PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE ESPECIALLY IF THEY RE SENDING
LENGTHY NEWSFILES AS IT LIKELY TO BE CASE SHOULD MORE
STUDENT TROUBLES OCCUR.

4. NEITHER AP NOR UPI BUREAU CHIEFS ASKED FOR EMBASSY INTERVENTION
NOR DID EMBOFF OFFER TO ASSIST. IF ASKED, WE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO DO SO AS APPROPRIATE. BELIEVE DEPT
SHOULD BE AWARE OF ABOVE SINCE AP AND UPI MAY REQUEST
OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE IN VIEW EXPENSE INVOLVED AND FACT
STRINGERS HAVE DESCRIBED THIS HAS FORM OF GOVT
HARASSMENT IN TELCONS WITH TOKYO BUREAUS.
HABIB

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NNN

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